



# MARSHAL MATTERS NOVEMBER 2021 EDITION

Marshal's Minute.....	2	Heating Safety Tips.....	15
Employee Spotlight.....	3	Winter Weather Prep Week.....	16
Pinckneyville COVID Relief Grant Event.....	4-5	OSFM DEI Working Group.....	17-18
Veterans Day Honor Page.....	6	IFSI Minute.....	19
Chicago Thanksgiving Safety Event.....	7	Illinois CRR Task Force.....	20
IFA Conference.....	8	Safe 2 Help Illinois.....	21
St. Charles Smoke Alarm Event.....	9	Crash Responders Week.....	22
Keep the Wreath Red Campaign.....	10	Shout Outs/Kudos.....	23
Holiday Fire Safety/Christmas Tree Safety.....	11-14	Kids' Corner.....	24-25

## Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez



The holiday season is here and that means many will be decking the halls to celebrate. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) more than two of every five home decoration fires occur due to decorations being placed too close to a heat source. More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles. The NFPA also reports that US fire departments responded to an average of 780 home structure fires per year that began with decorations between 2013-2017.

More than half of home decoration fires in December are started by candles. Candle fires peak in December followed closely by January. The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve. Before you head to bed or out for the evening, extinguish all lit candles.

The OSFM will once again be hosting the Keep the Wreath Red Campaign at our offices in Springfield and Chicago, along with at the Quinn Fire Academy in Chicago and the Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign. This campaign raises awareness about the importance of fire safety during the holiday season (December 1st through January 2nd). Unfortunately, last year 17 lives were lost in fire related incidents during the holiday season in Illinois.

Keep the wreath red campaign began in 1954 in Naperville to raise awareness about holiday fire safety. White light bulbs will replace the red bulbs when a fire related death is reported in the state.

These white lights are not just bulbs; they represent a person! That person could be your Mom, Dad, Brother, Sister, Aunt, Uncle, Friend or neighbor. The goal of the campaign is to strive for zero fire related deaths during the holiday season.

I want to personally wish everyone a Happy and Blessed Holiday Season. We continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and I urge everyone to continue to follow the latest guidelines issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Thank you to the first responders who are answering the call each and everyday through this pandemic. I know it hasn't been easy and we have lost a few of our brothers to this virus, but you are still there for those in your community. Stay safe and remember, One Team One Fight!

Happy Holidays!



## Employee Spotlight



**JC Fultz**

## Public Information Officer

**Where are you originally from?** Bethany, Illinois

**Tell us about your family? Kids, Significant other.....**  
Married to my wife Ashley for 12 years. We have two beautiful daughters, Anderson (8) and Hadley (3).

**Favorite food(s)?** German, Mexican, Pizza, Ice Cream

**Hobbies?** If there is a golf course nearby, I am there!

**What's your favorite movie or book?** Happy Gilmore, Tommy Boy and any Clive Cussler Novel

**When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers?** Country, Top 40 and 90's music

**What did you want to be when you were a kid?** I always wanted to be a broadcast meteorologist. I got to live my dream doing that for nearly 20 years!

**What's your favorite part of the job?** I really enjoy traveling and meeting people. Helping educate people is something I have always been passionate about and continuing to do that at the OSFM has been very rewarding.

**What's something unique about you?** Huge CUBS FAN! I am a basketball official. I also used to travel with my grandparents every summer as they owned a fudge and taffy business. We visited multiple state fairs across the western US.

**Where is your favorite place to vacation?** We really like the low country of South Carolina and Georgia. Anywhere in the Caribbean is also at the top of the list.

**Where is your bucket list destination?** Australia

## Pinckneyville COVID Relief Grant Event



*Fire Marshal Perez and  
Pinckneyville Fire Chief  
Jim Geilow.*



*Fire Marshal Perez with  
Olmstead Fire  
Department Chief Neal  
Giltner*

*Fire Marshal Perez traveled to Pinckneyville to honor several departments in southern Illinois who received funding from the OSFM's Illinois Fire Department COVID Relief Grant.*

*Representatives from Pinckneyville Fire Department, Olmstead Fire Department, Prairie du Rocher Fire Department, Tilden Fire Department and Hurst Fire Department.*

*The OSFM thanks the Pinckneyville Fire Department for hosting the event and opening up their fire house to us!*



## Pinckneyville COVID Relief Grant Event



*Fire Marshal Matt Perez  
and Prairie du Rocher  
Fire Department Board  
President Marquardt.*

*Fire Marshal Matt Perez  
and Tilden Fire  
Department Lieutenant  
Curtis Schwartzkopf*



*Fire Marshal Matt Perez and  
Hurst Fire Department  
Training Officer Brett  
Wojuiechowski and  
Firefighter Amanda Barney.*

## Veterans Day Honor Page

### The OSFM Salutes our Agency Veterans



Ken Arnold  
James Bentley  
Michael Douglas  
Larry Eaton  
Scott Johnson  
Mitch Kushner  
John Thomas  
Greg Vespa  
Larry Warren  
Donna Berger  
Scott Sunderland



Les Albert  
Bob Capuani  
Jim Coffey  
Patrick Polick  
Daniel Starks  
Greg Yurevich  
Timothy Wright



Mike Poel



Bernie Arends  
Tony Nichols  
Zaelon  
Rohwedder  
Eric Duckworth  
Chet Janis



Alix Armstead  
Terry R. Brown  
Milly Morales  
Eric Duckworth  
Ian Stanberry





## Chicago Thanksgiving Safety Event



Left to Right: CFD Chief Walter Schroeder, OSFM PIO JC Fultz, and CFD Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt

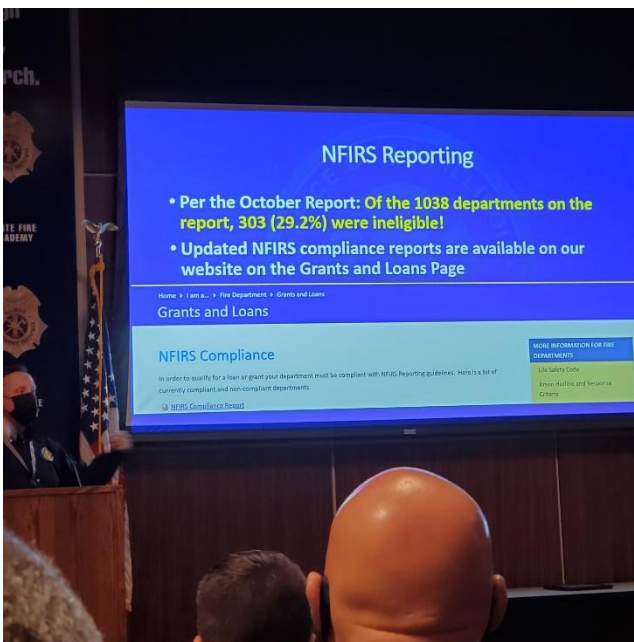


*The OSFM joined with the Chicago Fire Department to raise awareness about cooking safety during the Thanksgiving holiday. A demonstration was conducted to show what happens when you overfill your turkey fryer with oil and drop in a frozen turkey.*

*According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), each year from 2017 to 2019, an estimated average of 2,300 residential building fires were reported to fire departments in the U.S. on Thanksgiving Day. These fires caused an estimated annual average of 5 deaths, 25 injuries and \$26 million in property loss. U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 166,100 home fires per year involving cooking equipment.*



## IFA Down and Dirty Weekend



*The OSFM provided an agency update at the Illinois Firefighters Association's Annual Conference held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign. OSFM's PIO JC Fultz talked about the importance of departments staying current on their NFIRS reporting.*



## St. Charles Smoke Alarm Event



*The OSFM's PIO JC Fultz joined members from the St. Charles Fire Department, Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and St. Charles community to raise awareness about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.*

*"Be Alarmed!" is a fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program administered cooperatively between the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM). The program distributes fire safety education materials and 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms to fire departments in the state of Illinois. Those departments then work with residents in their communities to install smoke alarms and help educate about the importance of fire safety.*

*To learn more about the program visit: <https://www.ifsa.org/programs/alarms>*





## Keep the Wreath Red Campaign



The OSFM will once again be hosting the Keep the Wreath Red Campaign at our offices in Springfield and Chicago, along with at the Quinn Fire Academy in Chicago and the Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign. This campaign raises awareness about the importance of fire safety during the holiday season (December 1st through January 2nd). Unfortunately, last year 17 lives were lost in fire related incidents during the holiday season in Illinois.

Keep the wreath red campaign began in 1954 in Naperville to raise awareness about holiday fire safety. White light bulbs will replace the red bulbs when a fire related death is reported in the state.



Display at OSFM's Springfield Headquarters



Display at IFSI in Champaign



Display at Quinn Fire Academy in Chicago



Display at OSFM's Chicago Office



## Holiday Fire Safety



Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

### HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

### HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



### Before Heading Out or to Bed

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

### FACTS

- ! More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



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## Seguridad en las fiestas de invierno



Las fiestas de invierno son un momento para reunirse con familia y amigos. Aunque eso también significa un mayor riesgo de incendio. Seguir unos simples consejos le permitirá disfrutar de unas fiestas felices y sin riesgo de incendios.



### DECORACIÓN NAVIDEÑA

- » Tenga cuidado con las decoraciones navideñas. Escoja decoraciones retardantes o resistentes a las llamas.
- » Mantenga las velas encendidas alejadas de las decoraciones y de otros objetos inflamables.
- » Algunas luces son solo para uso interior y otras para uso exterior, pero no para ambos.
- » Reemplace las guirnaldas luminosas que tengan cables deteriorados o rotos, o conexiones flojas en las bombillas. Lea las instrucciones del fabricante para saber el número de guirnaldas a colocar.
- » Use sujetadores en lugar de ganchos para colgar las luces, así no se dañan los cables.
- » Mantenga las decoraciones alejadas de puertas y ventanas.



### VISITAS EN LAS FIESTAS

- » Revise los detectores de humo e infórmeles a los invitados sobre el plan de evacuación en caso de incendio.
- » Mantenga alejados a los niños y a las mascotas de las velas encendidas.
- » Guarde los fósforos y encendedores en lo alto de un armario, bajo llave.
- » No se aleje de la cocina mientras cocine en los hornillos.
- » No permita que fumen dentro del hogar. Recuérdeles a los fumadores que guarden los materiales para fumar para que los niños pequeños no puedan tocarlos.
- » Proporcione ceniceros grandes y profundos para los fumadores. Moje las colillas de los cigarrillos antes de desecharlos.



### Antes de salir o al irse a dormir

**Apague** las velas encendidas cuando salga de la habitación o se vaya a dormir. **Apague** todas las guirnaldas luminosas y las decoraciones antes de salir de su hogar o al irse a dormir.

### DATOS

- ! **Dos de cada cinco** incendios de la decoración en el hogar son provocados por velas.
- ! **Casi la mitad** de los incendios de la decoración suceden debido a que los adornos están muy cerca de una fuente de calor.



**Su fuente de información de SEGURIDAD**

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## Christmas Tree Safety

# Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



### PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



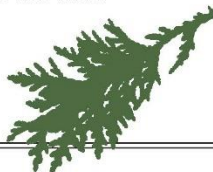
### PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



### LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



## After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

## FACTS

- More than **one of every four** home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes **one in every four** of the fires.



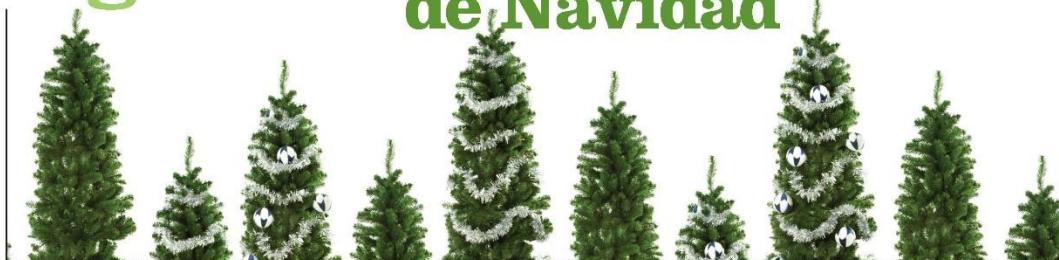
**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



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## Seguridad del árbol de Navidad

# Seguridad del árbol de Navidad



En estas fiestas, sea consciente de los posibles incendios al decorar las salas. Una pequeña llama que llegue a un árbol de Navidad puede crecer muy rápido.



### ELEGIR EL ÁRBOL

- » Elija un árbol con agujas de pino verdes y frescas que no se desprendan con el contacto.



### COLOCAR EL ÁRBOL

- » Antes de colocar el árbol en la plataforma, corte 2" de la base del tronco.
- » Asegúrese de que el árbol esté alejado, al menos tres pies (un metro), de cualquier fuente de calor, como chimeneas, calefactores, velas, conductos de calefacción o lámparas.
- » Asegúrese de que el árbol no obstruya una salida.
- » Agregue agua a la base del árbol. Asegúrese de agregar agua a diario.



### ENCENDER EL ÁRBOL

- » Use luces avaladas por un laboratorio calificado. Algunas luces son solo para interiores y otras solo para exteriores.
- » Reemplace las guirnaldas luminosas que tengan cables deteriorados o rotos, o conexiones flojas en las bombillas. Lea las instrucciones del fabricante para saber el número de guirnaldas a colocar.
- » Nunca use velas encendidas para decorar el árbol.
- » Siempre apague las luces del árbol de Navidad antes de salir o al irse a dormir.



## Después de Navidad

Deshágase del árbol después de Navidad o cuando este se seque. Los árboles secos representan un peligro de incendio y no se deben dejar en el hogar o en el garaje, o afuera junto a la casa.

Consulte con su comunidad local para buscar un programa de reciclaje.

Entre al hogar las luces eléctricas exteriores después de las fiestas para prevenir riesgos y darles más vida útil.

## DATOS

- ! **Uno de cada cuatro** incendios de árboles navideños en el hogar son provocados por problemas eléctricos.
- ! Aunque los incendios de árboles navideños no son comunes, cuando suceden, lo más probable es que sean graves.
- ! Una fuente de calor muy cerca del árbol provoca alrededor de **uno de cada cuatro** incendios.



Su fuente de información de **SEGURIDAD**

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## Heating Safety

# Heating Your Home Safely



Did you know?

**Home fires occur more in the winter months than any other time of the year.**

Follow these heating tips to help prevent winter fires and to stay safe this winter season:

- ✓ Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters or candles.
- ✓ Never use an oven to heat your home.
- ✓ Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- ✓ Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit  
**[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)**



## Winter Weather Preparedness Week

Winter Weather Preparedness Week in Illinois was November 15-19 and is a reminder for everyone to be prepared for when winter and cold weather returns to Illinois.

Keep in mind, being prepared for winter doesn't have to cost a lot of money or take a lot of time. It could be as simple as making sure your vehicle is in good winter driving condition, adding a winter survival kit to your car, changing your furnace filter at home and stocking or updating your family's emergency supply kit. Take time now to prepare your family, home, vehicles and driving habits for everything from a dusting of snow to a major winter storm.



### Indoor Safety During Cold Weather



**Place space heaters at least 3 feet from combustible items**



**Install and maintain carbon monoxide and smoke detectors**



**NEVER light a grill or wood burner in your home!**



**Make sure portable generators are properly ventilated**

Weather.gov/Lincoln | NWSLincoln | @NWSLincoln | National Weather Service – Lincoln, IL

### 5 Things to Know about Winter Weather Forecasts

- Snow or ice totals can vary greatly over short distances**  
A heavy snow band may form, dropping more snow in one location while significantly less snow falls just a few miles away.
- Winter forecasts can change frequently**  
Forecasts may change as new model data becomes available. Always check weather.gov for the latest information.
- Focus more on the winter storm's impacts**  
Don't focus too much on exact numbers, and consider the full range of possibilities.
- Know your winter weather terminology**  
If a Watch is issued, get prepared for hazardous weather. If a Warning or Advisory is issued, take action – hazardous weather is occurring or will occur soon.
- Rely on a dependable source for weather info**  
Choose your information sources wisely, and follow a name or organization you know and trust.

For more information on winter weather safety, visit: [weather.gov/winter](http://weather.gov/winter)

### Winter Storm Survival Kit for Travelers

- ☐ Cell phone and charger
- ☐ Blankets/sleeping bags
- ☐ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ☐ First-aid kit
- ☐ Knife
- ☐ High calorie, non-perishable food
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Extra clothing to keep dry
- ☐ A large empty can and plastic cover with tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes
- ☐ A smaller can and water-proof matches to melt snow for drinking water
- ☐ Sack of sand (or cat litter)
- ☐ Shovel
- ☐ Windshield scraper and brush
- ☐ Tool kit
- ☐ Tow rope with loops (avoid chains and hooks if at all possible)
- ☐ Booster cables
- ☐ Water container
- ☐ Compass and road maps

		Temperature (°F)																		
Wind (mph)	Calm	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45	
	5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63	
	10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66	-72	
	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77	
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81	
	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84	
	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87	
	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89	
	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91	
	45	26	20	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93	
50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95		
55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-97		
60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-98		

Frostbite Times

30 minutes

10 minutes

5 minutes

Wind Chill (°F) =  $35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V^{0.16}) + 0.4275T(V^{0.16})$

Where, T= Air Temperature (°F) V= Wind Speed (mph)

Effective 11/01/01



## OSFM DEI Working Group

OSFM DEI efforts continued throughout the month of November as we gave thanks and recognized the following special calendar events:

**November 1:** All Saints' Day, a Christian holiday commemorating all known and unknown Christian saints. (In Eastern Christianity, the day is observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost.)

**November 2:** All Souls' Day, a Christian holiday commemorating all faithful Christians who are now dead. In the Mexican tradition, the holiday is celebrated as Día de los Muertos (October 31-November 2), which is a time of remembrance for dead ancestors and a celebration of the continuity of life.

**November 3:** Qudrat (Baha'i Feast Day)

**November 4:** Diwali, the Hindu, Jain and Sikh five-day festival of lights celebrates new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and lightness over darkness.

**November 5-6** (sundown to sundown): Birth of Báb, a Bahá'í holiday celebrating the birth of the prophet Báb.

**November 6-7** (sundown to sundown): The birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í religion.

**November 11:** Veterans Day, a U.S. federal holiday honoring military veterans. The date is also celebrated as Armistice Day, or Remembrance Day, in other parts of the world and commemorates the ending of World War I in 1918.

**November 19:** International Men's Day emphasizes the important issues affecting males, including health issues that affect males, improving the relations between genders, highlighting the importance of male role models and promoting gender equality. This holiday is celebrated in over 70 countries.

**November 20:** Transgender Day of Remembrance, established in 1998 to memorialize those who have been killed as a result of transphobia and to raise awareness of the continued violence endured by the transgender community.

**November 21:** Feast of Christ the King, a Catholic holiday established in thanking God for the gift of time and a rededication to the Christian faith.

**November 22:** Qawl (Baha'i Feast Day)

**November 25:** Thanksgiving in the United States. It began as a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year.

**November 25:** Day of the Covenant (Baha'i Holy Day)

## OSFM DEI Working Group

**November 26:** Native American Heritage Day, held annually the Friday after Thanksgiving, encourages Americans of all backgrounds to observe and honor Native Americans through appropriate ceremonies and activities. The day was signed into law by George W. Bush in 2008.

**November 27:** Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha' (Baha'i Holy Day)

**November 28-December 6:** Hanukkah, a Jewish holiday that is celebrated around the world for eight days and nights. Hanukkah celebrates the victory of the Maccabees, or Israelites, over the Greek-Syrian ruler, Antiochus, approximately 2,200 years ago.

**November 28-January 6:** Nativity Fast, a period of abstinence and penance practiced by the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches in preparation for the Nativity of Jesus.

**November 28-** December 24 Advent, a Christian season of celebration leading up to the birth of Christ.

**November 30:** St. Andrew's Day, the feast day for St. Andrew within various Christian denominations.

Our agency DEI "Peer to Peer" Working Group met on November 15th. Among the topics and issues discussed during the meeting were our agency DEI mission statement; the delivery of DEI orientation training to agency staff; our internal DEI messaging; and an update regarding our DEI glossary. Deputy Director Armstead briefed the group about our external outreach efforts, including an article that he authored about DEI within the fire service that was published in the November 2021 edition of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection District's Fire Call magazine. We also had an informative and lively discussion relating to the pros and cons of returning to work, noting the impact that it might have on some employees.

The December group meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2021. We truly appreciate the commitment and dedication that our DEI "Peer to Peer" Working Group volunteers have shown throughout the year with respect to this important subject matter.

We are equally proud of the efforts of our external fire service partners who are making great strides in advancing DEI centric goals and objectives based upon their unique situations. Please reach out to us if you are one of our fire service partners and need assistance with starting your own DEI initiative.

**Diversity = Acceptance of all**

**Equity = Access for all**

**Inclusion = Meaningful participation by all**





## IFSI Minute

### AN UPDATE FROM THE ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

Happy Holidays from the Illinois Fire Service Institute. The fall training season will come to a close mid-December. As we close out the year, we are already planning for 2022 classes. This includes preparations for our next offering of Basic Operations Firefighter (BOF) Blended, beginning January 8, and our annual Winter Fire School event, scheduled January 22-23 in Champaign.

We remain grateful for the extraordinary group of instructors, staff, and students that contributed to a successful 2021 and we look forward to the opportunities that will come in the New Year.

A few updates from the IFSI team:



### 2022 CALENDAR

We are pleased to release the 2022 Calendar. To view: <https://go.illinois.edu/2022Calendar>

This yearly publication is a showcase of IFSI programs, units and resources, instructors, staff, partners, and special events. The calendar also serves as a highlight of future training opportunities. It is not a complete list of 2022 courses. We encourage individuals to frequently visit the IFSI website as our training schedule is consistently updating as we add programs and services that meet the needs of first responders.

Interested in receiving a printed calendar? Email your name and mailing address to [fsi-marketing@illinois.edu](mailto:fsi-marketing@illinois.edu).



### SCHEDULING CLASSES

The complete 2022 course schedule is open and available for online registration. IFSI Regional Representatives are also available to schedule no cost, essential skills training activities at local departments across the state. These courses are available through the IFSI Cornerstone Program. Visit the IFSI website for more details: [fsi.illinois.edu](http://fsi.illinois.edu).



### INSTRUCTORS – HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAM

IFSI Program Leaders are always seeking instructors to join their instructional teams. Each year, IFSI reaches over 60,000 first responders through the delivery of over 1,600 courses. To keep up with the demand for training, we are always looking for subject matter experts to support class instruction.

Currently, the Hazardous Materials Program is in search of qualified instructors to teach classes across the state. Experience and qualification requirements are subject to instructional assignments. Interested individuals should contact Hazardous Materials Program Manager, Glenn Kosieniak ([glkosieni@illinois.edu](mailto:glkosieni@illinois.edu)) for hiring details, training schedule, and course locations.

Teaching for IFSI is a great way to hone essential skills, collaborate with fellow members of the fire service, and give back to the industry. We invite qualified individuals to apply and start the new year as a member of the IFSI team.

*Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.*

## Illinois CRR Task Force



*The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal  
is proud to be a member of the  
Illinois Community Risk Reduction Task Force.*

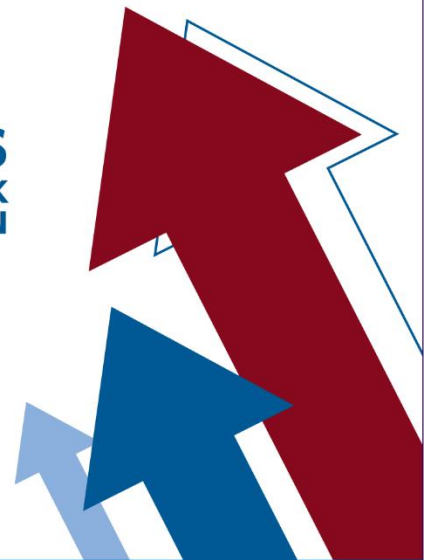
# ILLINOISCRR.COM



**Visit ILLINOISCRR.COM for a  
comprehensive collection of:**

- Community risk reduction campaigns
- Training opportunities
- National resources
- Partner and affiliate information

## NEW CRR RESOURCES & INFORMATION





## Safe 2 Help Illinois

*According to research, 70% of teens have experienced struggles with mental health. Suicide is the third leading cause of death of Illinois youth ages 10-19 (IDPH 2017-2019). Also, 61% of teens indicate the COVID-19 pandemic has increased their feeling of loneliness.*

*The State of Illinois is developing a school safety program called Safe2Help Illinois in an effort to raise awareness of 21st-century threats facing schoolchildren in Illinois.*

### **Mission:**

*In the absence of a trusted adult, Safe2Help Illinois offers students a safe, confidential way in which to share information that might help prevent suicides, bullying, school violence or other threats to school safety. This program is not intended to suspend, expel, or punish students. Rather, the goal is to get students to “Seek Help Before Harm.” Safe2Help Illinois will also develop an educational curriculum aimed at changing the culture in Illinois schools while also providing the resources to help parents and educators reinforce the components of this program.*

### **About Safe2Help:**

*Safe2Help Illinois is a 24/7 program where students can use a free app, text/phone, website (Safe2HelpIllinois.com) and other social media platforms to report school safety issues in a confidential environment. Once vetted, the tips will immediately be shared with local school officials, mental health professionals and/or local law enforcement, depending on the nature of the tip. The program also will help local officials by connecting them with mental health resources or other appropriate resources to intervene and help students before they harm themselves or others.*

<https://www.safe2helpil.com/>



## Crash Responders Safety Week

*November 8-14 was Crash Responder Safety Week. The goal of this week is to reach out to every emergency responder, every driver and every passenger to educate them on how to play their part in ensuring safe responses at roadway incidents.*

*There are around 7 million traffic crashes annually? Traffic incident responders work roadside to clear stalled vehicles, roadway debris, and other incidents—restoring safe travel. Stay alert for traffic incident responders. It's important to teach new drivers that when they encounter first responders along the side of the road to Move Over and Slow Down!*

### ROADWAY INCIDENT SAFETY is NO Accident

**POSITION** the fire apparatus for blocking to protect your crew from traffic

**WEAR** your high visibility vest or apparel

**IMPLEMENT** traffic control

**WORK** in the shadow of the blocking vehicle

**NEVER** turn your back to traffic

**MAINTAIN** situational awareness

## Fire



**RESPONDERSAFETY**  
Learning Network

For more information, visit: [www.ResponderSafety.com](http://www.ResponderSafety.com) & [www.RSLN.org](http://www.RSLN.org)



## Shout Outs/Kudos



*Pictured Left to Right: Chris Tougeron and Scott Johnson*

*Storage Tank Safety Specialists Chris Tougeron just successfully completed his 6-month probationary period and field training. A badge ceremony was conducted awarding Chris his badge. Congratulations Chris!*



*Left to Right: Aaron Siegler (Trainer for Chris), Chris Tougeron and Scott Johnson*

*Mr. Capuani, I wanted to give you a great accommodation for Brittani Crenshaw. I have had the worst time trying to get my paperwork complete for my elevator and chair lift certificate. Some of my problem was not having the knowledge to do what is required on my end. I was working with Edwina Wohlgemuth on this and then she retired, fortunately leaving me with Brittani's phone number and when I called she answered which at that point I was so relieved to have someone to speak to, and at 4:30 PM on a Friday she was still helping me. Brittani's people skills and communication skills on the phone are remarkable. Two days after my call to Brittani my problems have been handled. Please thank her for me.*

*Bobby Lakotich  
Johnston City Schools*

**YOU  
ROCK**

## Kids' Corner



Happy Holidays!

check out **Sparky.org** for more fun!



Kids' Corner

